

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer-implemented method for providing an alternate symbol associated  
2 with a base symbol comprising:  
3 receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols associated  
4 with a first base symbol; and  
5 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first  
6 base symbol.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:  
4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a user-  
5 defined criteria.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:  
4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a criteria  
5 of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed first.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last  
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate  
6 symbol;  
7 responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbols has been  
8 selected, increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has  
9 been selected; and  
10 storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last  
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate  
6 symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises displaying a pop-up menu of one  
3 or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises replacing the base symbol with  
3 one of the alternate symbols in the first list on a display.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes a short symbol sequence.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes an accented symbol version of the base symbol.

1     10.     The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2     includes a symbol of the same type as the base symbol.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes a symbol having an associational relationship with the base symbol.

3 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
4 receiving input requesting a second list of one or more alternate symbols  
5 associated with a second base symbol; and  
6 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the second list associated with the  
7 second base symbol.

1 13. A computing device for providing an alternate symbol associated with a base  
2 symbol comprising:  
3 a display;  
4 a memory;  
5 a processor coupled to the display and memory;  
6 a user input device for indicating a symbol; and  
7 software stored in the memory for providing an alternate symbol associated with a  
8 base symbol.

1     14.     The device of claim 13 wherein the computing device is a hand-held computing  
2     device.

1 15. The device of claim 13 wherein the user input device for indicating a symbol is a  
2 hardware key.

1     16.     The device of claim 13 wherein the software comprises instructions for execution  
2     by the processor for performing the following:

3 receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols associated  
4 with a first base symbol; and  
5 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first  
6 base symbol.

1 17. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a user-  
5 defined criteria.

1 18. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a criteria  
5 of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed first.

1 19. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last  
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate  
6 symbol;

7 responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbols has been  
8 selected, increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has  
9 been selected; and

10 storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 20. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last  
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate  
6 symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 21. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises displaying a pop-up menu of one  
3 or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

1 22. The device of claim 16 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises replacing the base symbol with  
3 one of the alternate symbols in the first list in the display .

1 23. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes a short symbol sequence as one of the one or more alternate symbols.

1 24. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes an accented symbol version of the base symbol as one of the one or more  
3 alternate symbols.

1 25. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes a symbol of the same type as the base symbol.

1 26. The device of claim 16 wherein the first list of one or more alternate symbols  
2 includes a symbol having an associational relationship with the base symbol.

1 27. The device of claim 16 wherein the software further comprises instructions for  
2 execution by the processor for performing the following:

3 receiving input requesting a second list of one or more alternate symbols  
4 associated with a second base symbol; and

5 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the second list associated with the  
6 second base symbol.

1 28. A computer usable medium comprising instructions for execution by a processor  
2 for performing the following:

3 receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols associated  
4 with a first base symbol; and

5 displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first  
6 base symbol.

1 29. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a user-  
5 defined criteria.

1 30. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to a criteria  
5 of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed first.

1 31. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last  
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate  
6 symbol;

7 responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate symbol has been  
8 selected, increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol that has  
9 been selected; and

10 storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 32. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more than one alternate  
3 symbol, comprises:

4 displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to last  
5 according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each alternate  
6 symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 33. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises displaying a pop-up menu of one  
3 or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol.

1 34. The medium of claim 28 wherein displaying one or more alternate symbols in the  
2 first list associated with the first base symbol comprises replacing the base symbol with  
3 one of the alternate symbols in the first list on a display.

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1 35. A computing device for providing an alternate symbol associated with a base  
2 symbol comprising:  
3 means for receiving input requesting a first list of one or more alternate symbols  
4 associated with a first base symbol; and  
5 means for displaying one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated with  
6 the first base symbol.

1 36. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate  
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more  
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:  
4 means for displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to  
5 a user-defined criteria.

1 37. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate  
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more  
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:  
4 means for displaying the alternate symbols of the first list in an order according to  
5 a criteria of the alternate symbol that was last selected for the base symbol is displayed  
6 first.

1 38. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate  
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more  
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:  
4 means for displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to  
5 last according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each  
6 alternate symbol;



7 means for increasing a frequency of selection indicator for the alternate symbol  
8 that has been selected responsive to receiving input indicating one of the alternate  
9 symbols has been selected; and

10 means for storing the frequency of selection indicator in a memory.

1 39. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate  
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol, the first list having more  
3 than one alternate symbol, comprises:

4 means for displaying the alternate symbols in the first list in an order from first to  
5 last according to a criteria of descending order of a frequency of selection for each  
6 alternate symbol, the frequency of selection being based on pre-determined statistics.

1 40. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate  
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol comprises means for  
3 displaying a pop-up menu of one or more alternate symbols in the first list associated  
4 with the first base symbol.

1 41. The device of claim 35 wherein means for displaying one or more alternate  
2 symbols in the first list associated with the first base symbol comprises means for  
3 replacing the base symbol with one of the alternate symbols in the first list on a display.